

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pontiac, Illinois
March 10, 2024

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 119 E. HOWARD ST., P.O. BOX 374 PONTIAC, ILLINOIS 61764

Phone: 815-844-7683 Fax: 815-842-4345 Parish & School Website: www.stmaryspontiac.org Facebook: St. Mary's Parish-Pontiac

PASTOR: Fr. Joseph A. Baker

frjbaker@stmaryspontiac.org 309-657-0966

PERMANENT DEACONS:

Dcn. Jim Wallace servant518@outlook.com Dcn. Ray White deacon.ray@stmaryspontiac.org

PARISH SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER: Patti Zehr

zehr.patti@stmaryspontiac.org

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR: Danielle Gill gill.danielle@stmaryspontiac.org

EVANGELICAL CATHOLIC COORDINATOR: Margo Law

law.margo@stmaryspontiac.org

MUSIC DIRECTORS: Marie Kane, Merryn Krenz,

& Kathy Schulz

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 12 noon and 1:00-4:30 pm Closed on Friday afternoons Memorial Day to Labor Day

MASS TIMES:

Saturday 4:00 pm Sunday 7:00 am & 9:30 am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am Thursday 8:15 am when school is in session

CONFESSION TIMES:

Monday. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 6:30-6:50 am Wednesday 12 noon –1:00 pm Saturday 2:30-3:30 pm

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL:

414 N. Main St., Pontiac, IL 61764

Phone: 815-844-6585

Principal: Mrs. Karen Jones, jones.karen@stmaryspontiac.org

Facebook: St. Mary's School Instagram: stmaryspontiac

ST. MARY'S FOOD PANTRY: 401 E. Water St. Open to Livingston County residents every Thursday from 12 noon to 3 pm.

Phone: 815-844-FOOD(3663)

SCRIP: SCRIP is now an electronic only format using the RaiseRight app or at www.raiseright.com. If you do not have an online account and would like to set one up, please contact Taryn Tissiere at tissiere.taryn@stmaryspontiac.org or 815-979-7663.



STEWARDSHIP

Collection last Sunday: \$13,362.40

School Collection was \$2,331.00.

St. Mary's Food Pantry Collection: This weekend.

Building Maintenance Fund Collection: Next weekend.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 9 (St. Frances of Rome)

4:00 p.m. Judith Bohm

Sunday, March 10 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. 16th ann Tim Murphy

Monday, March 11

7:00 a.m. Celeste Margherio

Tuesday, March 12

7:00 a.m. Marsha Follett Pauly

Wednesday, March 13

7:00 a.m. Barbara & Thomas Katsibubas

Thursday, March 14

8:15 a.m. 3rd ann Mac McCorvie

Friday, March 15

7:00 a.m. Harold Cotter

Saturday, March 16

4:00 p.m. 25th ann Donald Ocean

Sunday, March 17 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

7:00 a.m. Parish

9:30 a.m. WATCH Team

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: The Adoration Chapel is open each weekday, Monday-Friday from 8am until 8pm and Saturday from 8am until 3pm. If you would like to spend an hour with Jesus or share an hour with someone, please contact Darlene DeMattia at 815-674-2375 or the Parish Office at 815-844-7683.

BAPTISM PREP CLASS: If you are looking to have your first child baptized or are expecting your first child and would like to be prepared for the sacrament of Baptism when they arrive, please call the parish office at 815-844-7683 to reserve your spot. Baptism preparation classes will take place on the **third Thursday of each month at 6:00pm.** *Please do not ask godparents until the class has been attended, as this will be a topic that is covered.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED AT HOSPITAL: We are looking for 5 Eucharistic Ministers to offer Communion to any Catholic patients at St. James Hospital in the event that the Chaplain would be absent. If you would be willing to assist in this very important ministry please call Bryan Schweigert at (815)-867-0958. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

MEN & WOMEN NEEDED FOR DEEP CLEANING OF THE CHURCH: It has been several years since we did a deep cleaning of the church. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, March 16 from 9am to 12noon to wash down pews, paneling and doors. Please bring your own bucket & rags.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS: If you are interested in being an Altar Server please call or text Julie Wenger at (815) 252-5947.

MASS AT LOCAL NURSING HOME: Mass will be offered at The Pointe on Friday, March 15 at 10am.

PLEASE PRAY FOR William K. "Bill" Wallace (son of Deacon Jim & Laura Wallace), Betty Bott (aunt of Fr. David Sabel) and Ann Moffett (aunt of Birdie Ocean), R.I.P. Our sympathy to their families and friends.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENTEN FISH FRY

Friday, March 15 5-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Fried pollack, baked cod, fish sandwich, grilled cheese, minestrone soup, cheesy broccoli soup, potato soup, dessert & drink

\$12 for adults, \$7 for children ages 6-12, \$40 family max

IGNITING THE FLAME RETREAT – 2024

When: Saturday, March 23, 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Where: St. Mary's Parish Hall in Pontiac Who: You! and your friends & family

What: Presentations by Father Joe and several members of the laity, Mass, small group discussions, prayer and mediation, adoration, opportunity to go to confession, and light breakfast, lunch, and dinner prepared by St. Mary's own Peg Meier.

Why: To enjoy a day with fellow people of faith as we strengthen our personal relationships with Christ and each other. (We might even get to know that person who sits next to us at Mass!)

How: Text or Call Linda at 815-848-2506 by Sunday, March

17 to register, or for more information **Cost:** Freewill donation to cover meals

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SEWING CIRCLE will meet Thursday, March 14 from 9am to 12:30pm in the parish hall.

ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP: All high school students are invited to join us every Sunday evening from 6:30-8pm. Youth group meets in the upstairs of the Parish Center (former rectory). Please use the back door.

LEGION OF MARY: Want to tell the world about Jesus through Evangelization? Become a disciple. Join the Legion of Mary **every Thursday at 7:00pm** in the Parish Center. Please use the back door.

ATRIUM LENTEN PRESENTATION: Kelly Krenz, director of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium will be giving a Lenten presentation to adults on Thursday, March 14 from 10-11 am at Heartland Community College Pontiac Campus, Room 220 (second floor of Pontiac Public Library, there is an elevator). All are welcome to attend.

WOMEN'S GUILD RUMMAGE SALE FUNDRAISER: The Women's Guild will be holding a Rummage Sale Fundraiser in the parish hall on Friday, June 7 & Saturday, June 8. Donated items in good condition are needed for the sale such as books, jewelry, linens, toys, household items, decorations and miscellaneous items. NO CLOTHES! Start saving your items. Drop off information will be provided closer to the sale date.

FALLEN AWAY CATHOLICS: Do you know a member of our church who has stopped attending Masses since Covid, or for another reason? We would like to reach out to these church members. Please call the parish office at 815-844-7683 with names.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held each Friday of Lent, except Good Friday, at 5:30 p.m. in the church.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES: Extra priests will be on hand to hear individual confessions.

Wednesday, March 13 at 6:00pm at St. Joseph-Chenoa Thursday, March 14 at 6:00pm at Sts. Peter & Paul-Chatsworth

Tuesday, March 19 from 4:30-5:30pm at St. Patrick-Dwight followed by Mass at 5:30pm then a Mission Talk at 6pm by Fr. Luke Spannagel

Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00pm at St. Mary's-Pontiac

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES: For Easter Sunday ONLY, Masses will be offered at 7am, 9am and 11am.

EASTER FLOWERS may once again be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one to help decorate the church for Easter. All memorials and honors will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please place money and the form below in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and place it in the collection basket.

PLEASE PRINT NAMES AS YOU WANT THEM TO APPEAR IN THE BULLETIN.

IN MEMORY OF IN HONOR OF YOUR NAME								
					Lily—\$10	Small Mum—\$15	Large Mum—\$20	Kalanchoe—\$30

PART-TIME CUSTODIAN NEEDED: St. Mary's Parish is looking to hire an able-bodied individual to serve as a part-time custodian for St. Mary's School. Qualifications for this position include: striving to live a Christian life - be practicing the faith if Catholic, if not Catholic, have a respect for the Catholic Church and be comfortable working in a Catholic environment, possessing knowledge, skills, and experience in handling janitorial equipment and basic maintenance tools; assisting the head custodian in duties/ projects as needed; maintaining security of buildings, equipment, and tools. Duties would be cleaning of classrooms, hallways, gym following games, offices, pre-K area, and the parish hall, setting up and taking down of tables and chairs as needed, making sure all lights are out and doors are locked, and collecting trash or anything else determined by the maintenance director. Hours would be late afternoon/early evening. If interested, please send a letter of interest, stating qualifications and references, to Fr. Joseph Baker, P.O. Box 374, Pontiac, IL 61764 or drop it off at the church office.

SAVE THE DATE
SMS GOLF OUTING
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
MORE DETAILS COMING IN MAY

ST. MARY'S CHURCH PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



We have several updates regarding our Growing Disciples Initiative:

- The Growing Disciples Core Team has met with the Pastoral Commission (comprised of parishioners from each vicariate) and the Presbyteral Council (comprised of priests from each vicariate) to review the Round Three models it created based on the feedback from the Round Two models. All the feedback from both meetings has been submitted to the Bishop to consider as part of his discernment.
- The Round Three models recommended to the Bishop by the Core Team will be made public. The Bishop wanted you to see the information he is discerning for several reasons:
 - *He is committed to transparency in the Growing Disciples process.
 - *There are changes from the Round Two models based on the feedback the Core Team received.
 *It will help all of us begin to work within our parish community and nearby parishes to prepare hearts and minds for change. Regardless of what may happen to our parish, everyone will experience a change, whether it is a new structure for our parish or the parish we grew up in, a new priest, or a renewed commitment and focus to evangelization and growing disciples.
- The Round Three models will be posted on growingdisciplescdop.org on Sunday, March 10 at 6 pm.

The time for the Bishop's discernment has begun. He will take everything he has heard and seen, revisit notes and letters, and bring it all to prayer. Please pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide him and the Growing Disciples process.

Please email growingdisciples@cdop.org with any questions or concerns you may have.

Be There When God Moves

July 17–21, 2024, tens of thousands of passionate Catholics will experience an outpouring of grace on a scale this generation has never seen. This historic moment is called the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. Catholics from every corner of the U.S. will be in Indianapolis for this transformative gathering, and YOU are invited to represent our parish at this pivotal moment!

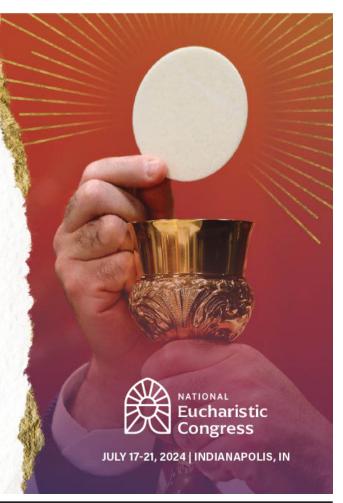
Whether you join us for the full experience or one day, you'll enjoy worldclass teaching from some of the most trusted Catholic voices in the United States. Come encounter and worship Jesus in a new way, and be anointed to share those graces with our community when you return home.

More than ever, you will be proud to be Catholic and excited about the future of the Church in America.



Scan the code to learn more about the event and explore the full schedule for each day. Contact our parish office for more information about registering with your fellow parishioners.

eucharisticcongress.org





ENCOUNTERING THE EUCHARIST

Do not omit a single day to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, if only for five minutes. Acquire the habit at any cost. In time, you will discover the benefit of it. Frequent Communion seems to frighten you. Why? It is true that if we considered only our own miserable sins and weaknesses, we should never dare approach the holy table. But after we have made the best preparation we can, we must throw ourselves on the goodness and mercy of God and believe that He will supply what is wanting in us. I only wish I could tell you, dear child, all

the consolation that I find in Holy Communion, especially during this last month when a time of greater quiet has enabled me to receive it several times a week.

~St. Simeon-Francois Berneux, Martyr (1814-1866)

All Eucharistic videos shown the past few months can be viewed at: church.stmaryspontiac.org > News & Events > Encounter the Eucharist

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday (3/9) 5-7 PM & Sunday (3/10) 9:30-11:30 AM: Eucharistic Miracles Display.

Learn about the International Eucharistic Miracles exhibition, conceived and designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis www.miracolieucaristici.org and www.carloacutis.com SEE DETAILS BELOW

Sunday, April 14: After 7 & 9:30 AM Masses Coffee/Donuts/Eucharistic Video in MPR July 17–21: 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis

> https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register



AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION DESIGNED AND CREATED BY <u>CARLO ACUTIS</u> THE SERVANT OF GOD

Carlo's exhibition presents a selection of the main Eucharistic Miracles (about 136, collected in 166 panels).

Through these panels you can "virtually visit" the places where the miracles happened.

St. Mary's Pontiac will have the Exhibit on Friday, March 1st through Sunday, March 10th In the Parish Hall.

Parish Hall Exhibit Hours:

March 1^{st} : 5-7 PM during K of C Fish Fry

March 2nd: 5-7 PM after 4 PM Mass

March 3rd: 8 AM – Noon (Coffee & Donuts)

March 4th-6th: By Appointment only

Call Dcn Ray: 815-674-5520

March 7th: 2:30 - 7 PM Exhibit Open

4:30 PM Exposition (Church)

4:30 - 6:30 PM Adoration (Church)

6:30 PM Rosary (Church)

7:00 PM Benediction (Church)

March 8th: 5-7 PM during K of C Fish Fry

March 9th: 5-7 PM after 4 PM Mass

March 10th: 9:30 - 11:30 AM after CCD

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 10, 2024

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6;

Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Monday Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b;

Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16 **Wednesday** Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18;

Jn 5:17-30

Thursday Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn 5:31-47 **Friday** Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23;

Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15;

Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON: Thursday, March 21 from 11am to 1pm St. Andrew Catholic Church, 110 E. Ash Street, Fairbury. Serving Ham, Salads, Rolls & Beverages. By Donation Only. Carry-outs available. Hosted by the Altar & Rosary Society of St. Andrew Church.







St. Mary's Parish is now offering Online Giving.

Online Giving can be used to give to:

- Sunday Offering
- School Collection
- Food Pantry
- · Building Maintenance Fund
- · Memorials/Gifts
- School Annual Fund
- Scholarships

Start giving online today!

- 1. Visit our website at <u>www.stmaryspontiac.org</u> and click on the online giving link.
- Create an account.
- Schedule your gift. Gifts given via checking or savings account have no service charge. Debit and credit card gifts will be assessed a 3% fee.

Please prayerfully consider giving online. If you have any questions, contact the parish office at 815-844-7683. Online Giving is provided by Our Sunday Visitor, a Catholic not-for-profit organization serving parishes for more than 100 years.

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR MARCH

For the new martyrs: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

SPIRIT

CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO

7 days a week, 24 hours a day! Catholic Spirit Radio broadcasts EWTN and local programming for you! It's lively, entertaining, and informative. Catholic Spirit Radio is on 89.5 FM and 92.5 FM, and now on 88.3 FM in the Pontiac area, and online at

www.catholicspiritradio.com We would like to thank the following local businesses for underwriting the efforts of Catholic Spirit Radio: Knights of Columbus Council #854, Baby Bulls Restaurant & Lyons-Sullivan Realty. If you

would like to support CSR, please contact Jerry LoPiccalo at 630-514-6221.

ROSARY ON CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO: Everyday at 4:30am and 8:30pm.

MASS IS BROADCAST EACH MORNING AT 7AM

Catholic Spirit Radio has a new free app.

They upgraded so that listeners with newer phones, tablets, and other listening devices can access Catholic Spirit Radio programs and podcasts. Go to Google Play or Apple App store to find the new app:

Catholic Spirit Talk Radio.

New App - Same Quality Catholic Programs!

SPALDING SCHOLARSHIPS: Your child can attend a Catholic School, Financial Assistance Available Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2024-2025 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed. Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under Catholic Education and then under Financial Assistance. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award. Parents must apply online at: online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2024-2025 school year must reapply. Deadline date for the completed application is April 26, 2024. Notification of grant awards will be made in June of 2024.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILIES THIS YEAR

We ask everyone to pray for specific church and school families each weekday.

A list will be published here in the bulletin and in the newsletter you receive in the mail.

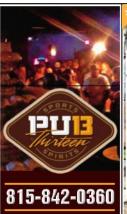
Please remember these families in your prayers each day for them to grow in their faith this year.

Mon Mar 11	Annette Wooldridge Family, Charlene Aaron Family
Tues Mar 12	Robert & Lori Wright Family, Debbie Alsdorf Family
Wed Mar 13	Rod & Patti Zehr Family, Les & Josie Ahrends Family
Thurs Mar 14	Ann Worthington Family, Carol Antolik Family
Fri Mar 15	Leonard & Connie Wydajewski Family, Carol Alford Family
Mon Mar18	Doug & Linda Zick Family, Jim & Denise Anderson Family
Tues Mar 19	Kristi Wright Family, Frank & Kathy Arbogast Family
Wed Mar 20	Shirley Wynant Family, Janet Andres Family
Thurs Mar 21	Mary Ann Wright Family, Bob & Nancy Arbogast Family
Fri Mar 22	David & Deb Zega Family, Michael & Theresa Arduini Family



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY!







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Grand Knight: Bill Bertram (815) 690-7072

Fr. Joseph Baker, Chaplain

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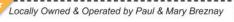
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